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WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Volume XXII

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, MAY 4, 1948

No. 18

HENRY HOPE LECTURES ON LOUIS SULLIVAN

Chapter Dinner Meeting in Rackham Building, Lecture at Detroit Institute of Art

"Louis Sullivan and the Art of his Time" was the subject of a lecture by Dr. Henry Hope, Professor of Art and Chairman of the Fine Arts Department at Indiana University, at The Detroit Institute of Arts, Thursday Evening, April 15. The lecture, under the auspices of the Metropolitan Art Association, of Detroit, was timed to emphasize the exhibition of Sullivan's work at the Institute of Arts, loaned by the Institute of Modern Art of Boston.

Dr. Hope was guest at the dinner meeting of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. at the Rackham Building, on the evening of his lecture. Before adjourning to the lecture hall, Dean Wells Bennett, Chapter President, recognized and welcomed two members of the Saginaw Valley Chapter, who were guests. They were Fred Beckbissinger and LaVern Nelsen. The latter is Secretary of the Saginaw Valley Chapter, A.I.A.

The President also introduced Dr. Hope, who said a few words to the architects. The speaker said that he became interested in Sullivan's work by reading some of his books. "Your work only becomes important to me after you have died", he concluded.

President Bennett announced that the next Chapter meeting will be held in Ann Arbor on May 19, a dinner at the Michigan Union. This is the Chapter's annual joint meeting with the Student Branch of the Chapter, at which the Chapter award for scholarship in the College of Architecture and design is made. Cornelius L. T. Gabler, Chapter Treasurer and former Major in the U.S. marine Corps, Strategic Bombing Service, will show lantern slides of pictures taken while on his tour of duty in the Pacific. Ladies are cordially invited.

At the Board meeting preceding the April 15 dinner meeting, a Zoning Committee, to cooperate with the Detroit City Plan Commission, was appointed. It consists of Arthur K. Hyde, Chairman, Suren Pilafian and Alex Linn Trout.

At the lecture, Dr. Hope was introduced by Mr. Hawkins Ferry, President of the Metropolitan Art Association, who outlined some of the Association's activities during the season just passed. He expressed appreciation to the groups who have cooperated, including the architects.

Dr. Hope gave a most interesting lecture, illustrated with slides of Mr. Sullivan's work, and some of other architects, used for purposes of illustration. Many of those attending the lecture had viewed the exhibition then current at the Art Institute, which gave an added understanding of the work of this great architect. The lecture and the exhibit emphasized the tremendous influence Sullivan has had on the architecture of today. The very name of what we call today the "functional

style" is derived from Sullivan's major principle of design, "Form follows Function."

Sullivan developed this principle in his fight for a living architecture. He felt that an architecture derived from historic styles was dead and an outgrowth of man's distrust in his own creative powers. He thought it an expression of surviving feudalism, of a mentality of fear.

This great master of his art, like other prophets, had to endure a period of oblivion, though he regained his rightful place in later years. He is now regarded as one of America's great architects, perhaps the greatest of the 19th Century. The speaker set straight some of the most frequent misconceptions of Sullivan's architecture. These

(See Page 2)

Dinner Meeting, Detroit Chapter THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

ANN ARBOR, WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1948

Board Meeting, Architecture Bldg., 4:30 p.m.

Dinner, Michigan Union, 6:45 p.m., Program 8:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: "Some News and Views of the By-Passed Islands in the Pacific."

SPEAKER: CORNELIUS L. T. GABLER, A.I.A., Treasurer, Detroit Chapter, and former Major in the U.S. Marine Corps, Strategic Bombing Service.

Mr. Gabler will show slides, most of which are in color, of interesting features taken on his tour of duty in the Pacific during World War II.

This is the Chapter's annual joint meeting with its U. of M. Student Branch, at which the Chapter's award for outstanding scholarship in the College of Architecture and Design is made.

Ladies are cordially invited.

were based on the desire of recent observers to emphasize those characteristics of Sullivan's functionalism which contributed to the naked antiornamental functionalism of the 1920's. Hope makes it quite clear how important ornament was to Sullivan as "the more mobile, delicate and sumptuous expression of the creative impulse." But, like everything else in Sullivan's work, ornament had to be creative, not a repetition of motives borrowed from historic styles.

The lecture and exhibition provoked a new appreciation of this least-appreciated side of Sullivan's genius. His ornament is based on nature, on the endless variety and richness of botanical forms with which he was familiar as a nature-lover, and as a scientist who "botanized and mineralized with incessant ardor."

The foundation of this interest was laid in Moses Woolson's class in Boston's English High School, which Sullivan attended in 1870-71. Sullivan gives credit to Woolson's "genius as a teacher" for having turned "a crudely

promising boy into, so to speak, a mental athlete." Woolson was himself a great nature-lover, and botany was one of his favorite subjects. Sullivan induced Asa Gray of Harvard, whose "School and Field Book of Botany" he used, to come to class occasionally to "talk botany to the boys."

Sullivan's nature studies carried not only into his creation of ornament; indeed, his idea that "function created or organized its form", which he applied to architecture, was derived from his studies of botany, of "forms of life and the aspects of life's urging, called functions."

Sullivan's greatest contribution as an architectural thinker is the foundation he laid for a new esthetic theory which stipulated "that architecture in its material nature is a plastic art." It took him a lifetime to discover this truth. As a boy about the age of 12, he talked to a building foreman who enlightened him first on what an architect was, and, when further questioned by the boy as to how an architect made the outside of a building, the foreman said, "Why, he made it out of his head, and he had books besides." Already, at this early age, the "books besides" repelled Sullivan, because he said, "anybody could do that." But the "made out of his head" fascinated him. When he studied at "Tech" in Boston, he traced the five orders and was told that the orders were classic, which implied an arrival at the goal of Platonic perfection of ideas.

From "The Autobiography of an Idea" we learn that Sullivan was not given to that kind of faith. His faith lay in the oft-seen creative power of man. His faith, indeed, lay in freedom. These rigid "orders" seemed to say, "The book is closed, art shall die."

It is quite natural that a mind like this should be attracted by the great engineering works of the day. One of these engineering works was C. Shaler

Smith's cantilever bridge over the chasm of the Kentucky River, "a work of science without concession, to take form in the wilderness." Hope sums up his interest at this time: "The chief engineers became his heroes; they loomed above other men. The positive quality of their minds agreed with the aggressive quality of his own." And in a more revealing statement, Hope says, "At last he began to recognize as dominant the will of the creative dreamer; he who possessed the power of vision needed to harness imagination, to harness the intellect, to make science do his will, to make emotions serve him."

REMOVAL

John L. Pottle, A.I.A., announces the removal of his offices to 15324 Mack Avenue. This is in Grosse Pointe but the mailing address is Detroit 24. 15324 is between Lakepoint and Barham Avenues, on the south side of Mack Avenue, which is the dividing line between Grosse Pointe Park and Detroit.

The telephone number remains the same—TUxedo 1-2988.

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LOUIS G. REDSTONE, A.I.A., Architect

Combined Show Window and Show Room is a striking feature of Wilshire Motors Sales & Service building at 12603 Dexter Boulevard in Detroit.

Its Decor was worked out to give an Atmosphere of Strength and Grandeur.

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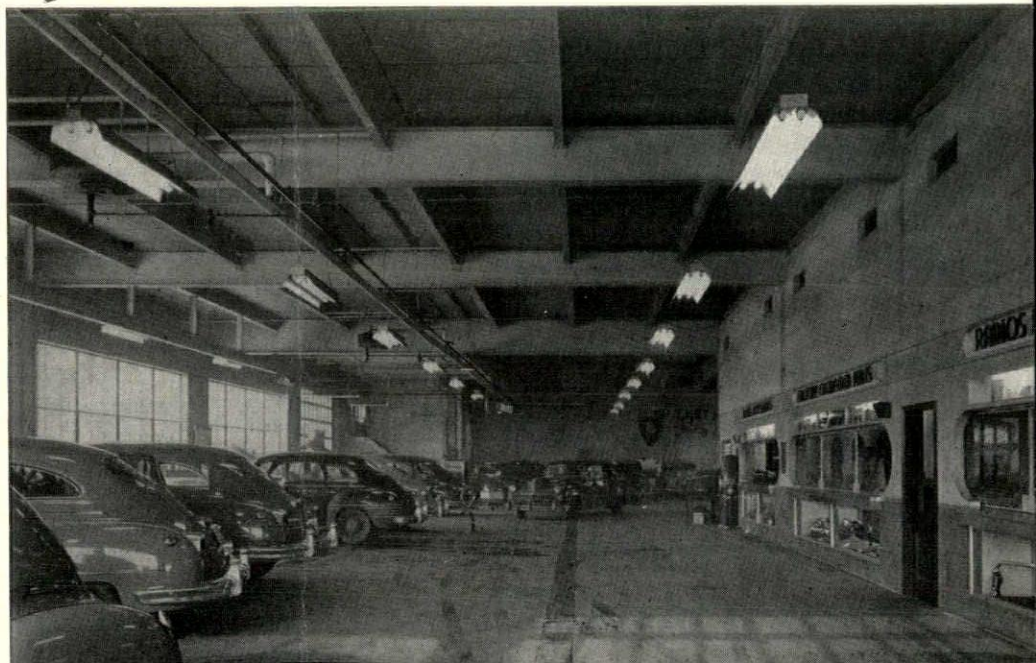
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This view shows the Service Department of the Wilshire Sales and Service Building.

For Economy of Operation, and to Insure Comfort of Staff and Patrons, separate Heating Plants were installed for Service Portion and Office Section.



New Building for Wilshire Motor Sales, Inc.

At Dexter Blvd. and Fullerton Ave., Detroit

LOUIS G. REDSTONE, A.I.A.,
Architect

By deviating from the ordinary type of automotive sales and service station, I strove to design one that would give a new and stimulating approach to the problem of rendering sales-service buildings both functional and appealing to the eye.

The focus of attention in this design is directed to the sweep of the circular corner show window. The wall facing Dexter was slanted back toward the show room to give an unobstructed view for display purposes. The division between the display and service departments is achieved by means of a vertical sign extending from the decorative flower box to twice the height of the building. This type of sign (which is yet to be completed) is framed structurally as an integral part of the building.

In order to get the desired results, it was necessary to study carefully and thoroughly the requirements of sales and service, in close cooperation with the Central Service Division of the Chrysler Corporation, who was most helpful in the matter. In this way, the floor plan affords the most efficient answer to the dealer's needs.

The interior of the building is as functional as its exterior. The cashier's of-



fice is centrally located with direct access to the offices and to the service and parts departments. The closing room are just off the hall, to insure privacy. The main show room also serves as a waiting room for customers of the service department. Its decor was

Splayed Exterior Front Wall affords Protection from Weather, Permits Wider View of Show Window.

worked out to give an atmosphere of strength and grandeur.

For economy of operation, two types of heating are used. The main service and repair department has hot water heating with its own separate hot water boiler. The office section has forced hot air with a gas-fired unit. The reason for two plants is that the offices require heating in the late spring and early fall when the service department does not.

Lighting throughout is fluorescent except for the cove lighting in the show room, which is of cold cathode tubing.

I take this opportunity to thank those who worked with me on the project, for the success of any building depends so much on such cooperation.

Night View of Curved Window, Show Room.

A Dramatic Effect is Achieved, with excellent Vision from all Directions.





DAY-TIME GENERAL VIEW OF WILSHIRE SALES AND SERVICE BUILDING

Coburn Photo

Shown at Right is a Group taken at the Michigan Society of Architects Thirty-Fourth Annual Convention, at Hotel Statler in Detroit, March 4 and 5, 1948.

From Left to Right: E. G. Bush, President of the Builders' and Traders' Exchange, of Detroit.

Walter Torbet, of the Michigan Building Industry Banquet Committee

Governor Kim Sigler, Principal Speaker at the Banquet

Adrian N. Langius, President of the Society

Edwin J. Brunner, Secretary-Manager of the Exchange.

Photo is by Win Brunner



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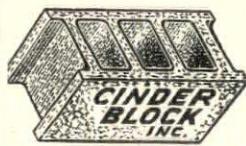
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The active help of the 7,500,000 individuals who have a personal stake in the construction industry must be enlisted to assist in telling the public the story of the industry's remarkable accomplishments in providing housing and other structures since the end of the war, David S. Miller, president of The Producers' Council says.

"It is imperative that the public be told about the industry's record in order to offset the mistaken impression that construction has lagged behind other industries in postwar expansion," Mr. Miller said.

"An abundance of facts with which to document the industry's progress will be made available to individuals engaged in building by the Construction Industry Information Committee and other industry organizations.

"The CIIC will issue a series of factual economic studies which will establish the accomplishments of the industry as a whole. These will be sent to editors who influence public opinion, and to all building industry organizations.

In addition, the Committee will prepare a series of pamphlets addressed to individuals in each major branch of the industry, relating the facts about progress the industry is making in expanding the volume of building, increasing efficiency, reducing building costs, shortening building time, and increasing materials production.

"Up to the present time, the spotlight has been turned on the shortage of housing and the scarcities of some materials, and on the industry's handicaps. The time has come to tell the other side of the story.

"Everyone engaged in the industry should help to tell that story. A better understanding of the progress being made in supplying construction needs means a more stable industry in the future and steadier employment for those in the industry."

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GUS O'DELL IS BACK

H. Augustus O'Dell, A.I.A., of the Detroit firm of O'Dell, Hewlett & Luckenbach recently returned from Florida, where he had been on an extended vacation. Upon his return he was confined to the hospital for a short period but is now at home again in the Whittier Apartment-Hotel.

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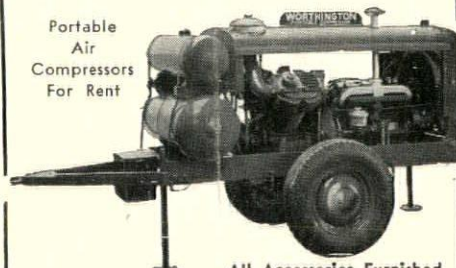
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Volume XXII

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, MAY 11, 1948

No. 19

The Michigan Construction Outlook

An address by Marvin J. Brokaw, Detroit district manager, F. W. Dodge Corporation, before the Michigan Society of Architects Convention, Detroit, on March 5th, 1948

As the year 1947 drew to a close, construction activity in Michigan as measured by contracts awarded was running at about 6 per cent above the level of the previous year. This increase was about 2 per cent higher than in most other regions of the country. This meant Michigan had a total construction volume of 422 million dollars, the largest dollar volume in its history. The conclusion to be drawn was that Michigan was more than holding its own.

This is confirmed by January's experience, when contracts shot up more than 80 per cent over January of last year, against a national average increase of about 8 per cent.

In analyzing January's phenomenal gains, we find that contract awards for that month over the previous January for nonresidential building were up about two and a half times, and residential contract volume up more than 80 per cent. It was only in heavy engineering works that a decline was noted at all, and this amounted to 29 per cent. It is seen, therefore, that we are off to a good start toward a half billion dollar volume in this state this year.

The official estimates of our corporation, made for the thirty-seven states east of the Rocky Mountains, indicate an over-all increase of about 7 per cent this year over last in contract volume. If this holds good for our state it is not improbable that the half billion dollar volume will be attained in 1948.

It is an easy thing to pick a figure out of a hat and say this represents the increase for this year. Our home office, however, puts a great deal of analytical effort into its estimates of construction, and because these have been proved to be pretty fair indexes of anticipated volume, many persons in the industry have come to rely on them.

There is one recent development which bears watching, and that is the

trend of general commodity prices. We have witnessed the recent declines in these prices. In the spring of last year there was hope that a reasonable degree of stabilization of commodity prices and construction costs had been reached. This short three-month period of moderately declining commodity prices and construction costs was also a period of moderate slowdown in contract letting. It is too early to say whether a similar pattern will be followed if commodity prices continue downward. Some prospective builders may decide to wait in the hope that costs will decline.

Among current uncertainties as to prices and construction costs two conclusions stand out clearly: (1) construction costs will remain substantially above prewar levels for an extended period of time and (2) current construction costs contain certain factors which, being abnormal and temporary, are likely to disappear at comparatively early dates. Since the rise in construction costs part of the general war and postwar price inflation which pervades the entire national economy, it is necessary to view construction costs in relation to the general trend of commodity prices and wages. Most recent index figures indicate building materials prices are just about double those of prewar.

Labor costs in construction operations have increased appreciably, both in terms of increased wage scales and

reduced productivity. A 50 per cent increase in hourly rates coupled with a 25 per cent reduction in productivity would result in a doubling of labor costs. Hourly rates have actually risen more than 50 per cent on the average. While there are no over-all statistics on which productivity can be measured on a nation-wide scale, it seems to be generally believed that productivity is down about a third, rather than the one quarter cited in the hypothetical case just given. On the whole, labor costs of most current construction operations is probably more than double the labor cost of similar prewar projects.

To the extent that reduced productivity results from lowered morale of construction workers, the situation parallels a condition that has been widespread among wage earners generally, including factory workers and clerical workers. Under conditions of full employment, there are no compelling incentives to maximum productivity. Under conditions of material shortages and irregular deliveries, a considerable degree of inefficiency is unavoidable. Construction management itself, grown accustomed to a certain laxity under wartime cost-plus contract arrangements, has been partially responsible for lowered productivity. One factor in the picture of reduced construction productivity is more or less peculiar to the construction industry, namely, the aging of construction workers. Men in their fifties and sixties cannot be expected to do as much manual work per day as men in their twenties, thirties and forties. Recruitment of new construction workers and training in construction skills has not been proceeding fast enough to meet the needs of the situation.

Construction costs have risen less than the cost of food. They have risen somewhat less than have the average incomes of the American people. According to the U. S. Department of

(Continued on Page 2)

Commerce, average income paid out to individuals was 109 per cent greater in 1946 than it was in 1940. A similar comparison between 1939 and 1947 would show a somewhat larger percentage rise.

It is evident from these price comparisons that, while construction costs have been highly spotlighted in public discussions, they are not abnormal for an inflationary period, nor out of line with the most important other inflationary increases.

For an appraisal of current inflationary trends, we conducted an opinion survey among leading economists last October. One hundred replies were received from economists in industry, commercial organizations, financial institutions and universities. While wide variations of opinion were expressed regarding the economic outlook, there seemed to be something like a general consensus.

The economists expect stabilization of wholesale commodity prices at a level approximately 70 per cent over the 1939 average. To reach this would require a decline of almost 20 per cent from the present level. As to the tim-

ing of commodity price stabilization, there was the widest possible variety of answers, ranging from now up to some time in 1951. The median date among all the answers to this question was the spring of 1949. While such a survey yields no absolute guide to future trends, a consensus of informed opinion should enable us to make rather better guesses as to the future than we could otherwise make.

The suggestion that wholesale commodity prices will stabilize at a level close to 70 per cent above the 1939 prompts an inquiry as to whether construction costs may stabilize at something near the same level. It is not a foregone conclusion that they will. After World War I and after the post-war inflation and deflation, wholesale commodity prices stabilized within a range of 45 to 50 per cent over prewar, while construction costs stabilized at approximately double prewar.

However, there are some good reasons at the present time for thinking of 70 per cent over prewar as a figure around which construction costs may stabilize. According to Boeckh's index, basic costs of commercial, factory and apartment buildings are in the range of 65 to 70 per cent over prewar. These index numbers are, in a sense, theoretical, since they take into account quoted prices of the principal materials, official wage scales and customary builder's overhead and profit. They do not include the abnormal premium prices paid for many of the important material and labor components of total cost which are present in today's shortage market. It may be assumed that 15 per cent or even more should be added to the cost figures shown by such index (See BROKAW—Page 6)

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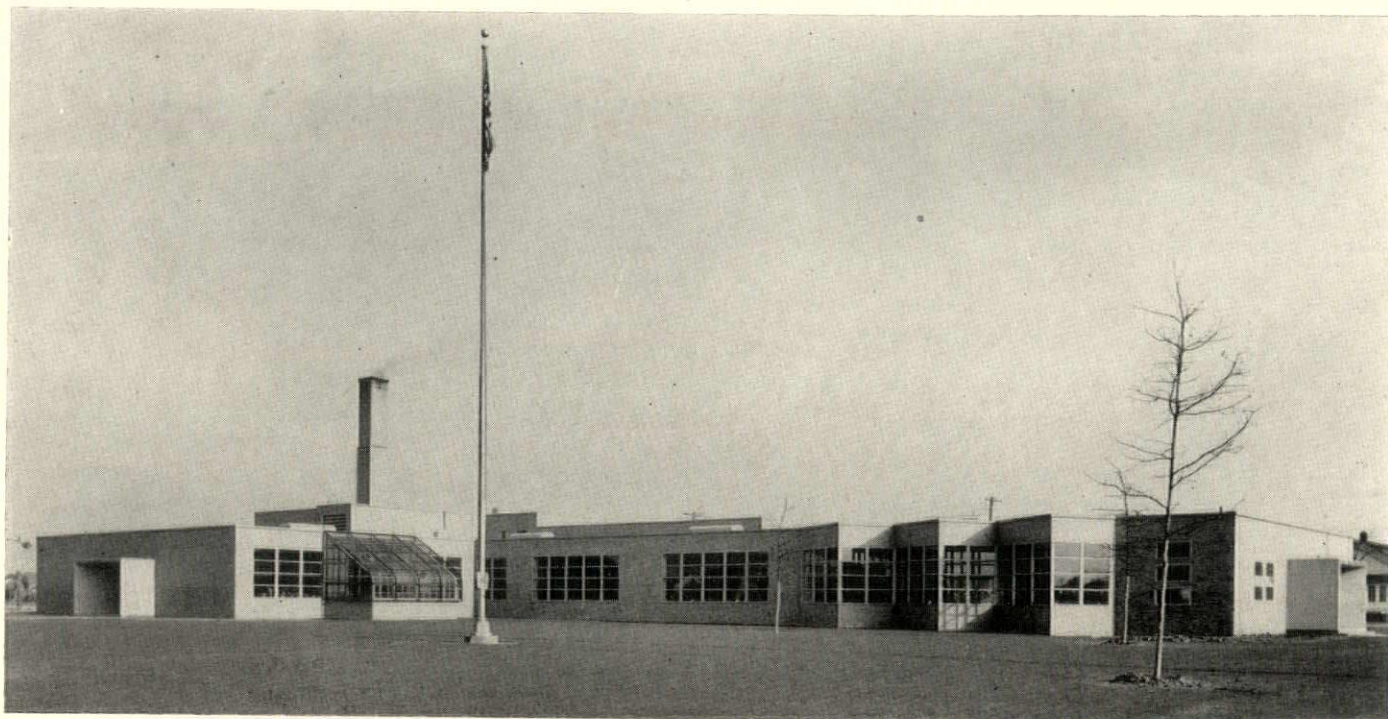
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William Carleton Elementary School, Detroit



Above is view of exterior taken from Lakepointe Avenue.

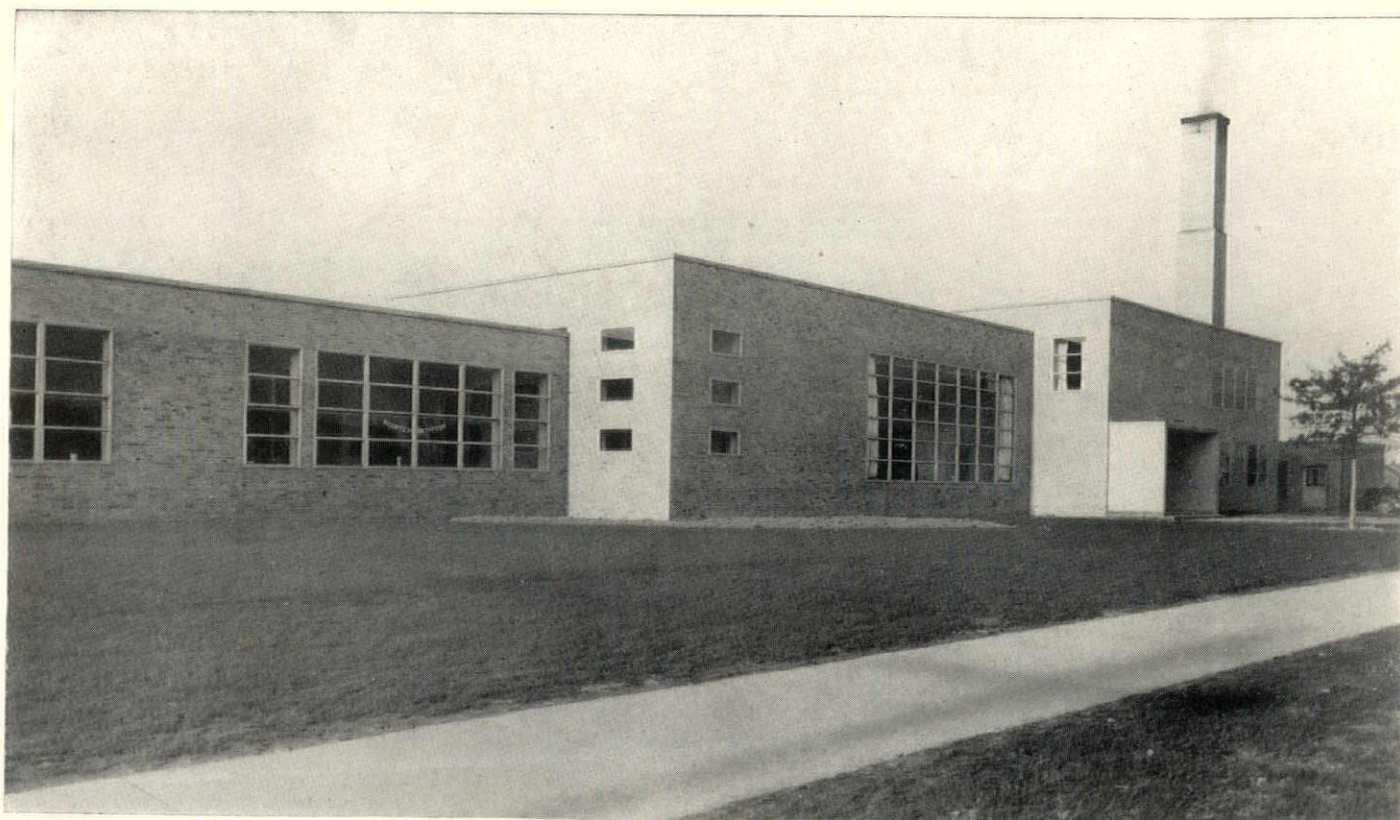
Saw-tooth plan affords maximum light in Kindergarten.

MALCOMSON, FOWLER and
HAMMOND, INC.

Architects

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Below: Another View of Exterior, this one from Roxbury Avenue.





At Left: Multi-purpose room, an appropriate name for this area, as it is used as a gymnasium, play room and lunch room.

Metal tables and benches fold into wall.

Photographs are by Astleford
(except those on Page 5)

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At right is shown a View of the Auditorium.

Carved Wood Plaques lend a note of Distinction.



Will Carleton School, Modern Simplicity

By MAURICE E. HAMMOND, A.I.A.,
of Malcomson, Fowler and Hammond, Inc.,
Architects

The recently completed William Carleton Elementary School is located in a new and rapidly growing residential section in northeast Detroit. The building site is bounded by Lakepointe, Farmsbrook, Roxbury and Casino Avenues.

The new school is the first unit of a building project planned and designed for a possible future class room addition. This first unit accommodates 420 pupils and is already filled to capacity. The major portion of the new structure is one story high and is carried out in a functional design. The one-story part contains class rooms, Kindergarten, Science Room with Conservatory, Music and Art Room, Auditorium with complete stage, Multipurpose Room and the necessary administration offices.

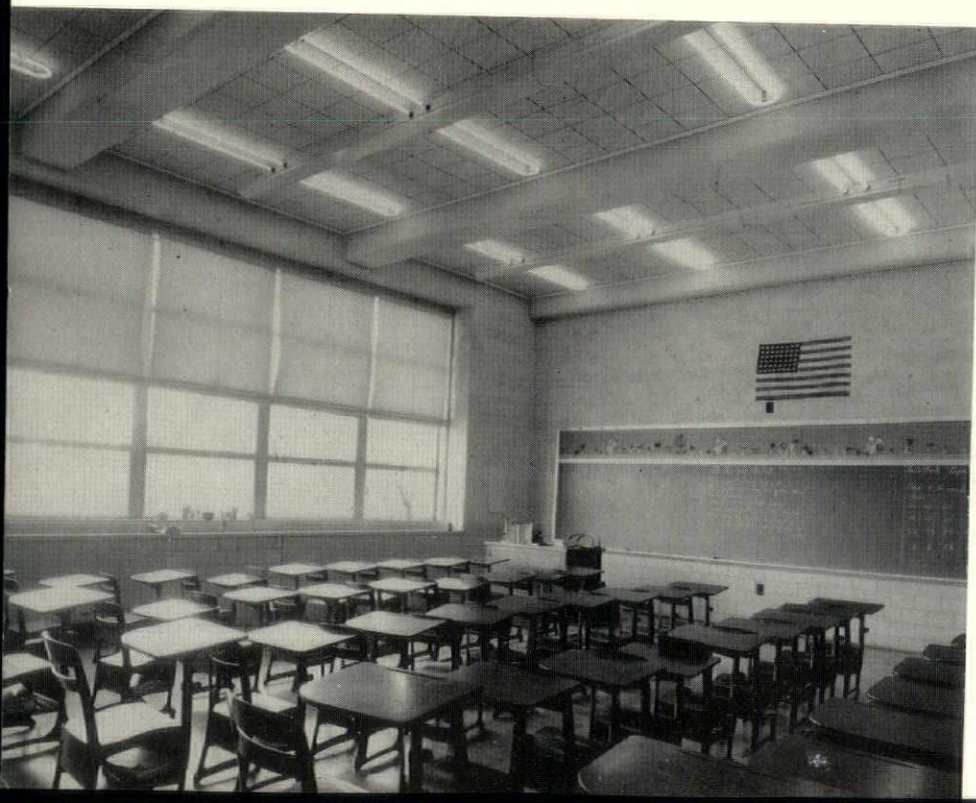
The second story portion contains the Music Practice Room, Teachers' Rest Room and Observation Room. All rooms are finished with oak or brick tile wainscots with cinder tile walls above. The Music Room, Science Room and class rooms have floors of the new type mastic-bonded hard northern maple. The floors are bonded in asphalt mastic to the concrete sub-floor, thus eliminating the usual nailers or sleepers. This type of flooring is considered fire-resistant and presents the appearance of parquet flooring. These rooms have glass chalkboards with aluminum chalk rails. All chalkboards, corkboards, bulletin boards and display cabinets have aluminum trim.



Above: The Roxbury Avenue Entrance, one of the three, of simple dignity.

Coburn Photos

Below: Class Room, showing the excellent lighting conditions, for both night and day.



The building was designed in an L-shaped plan. The Auditorium and Multi-purpose room are located at one end of an L wing with an adjacent exterior entrance for these large assembly areas. As a result, the public does not wander through the remainder of the building in using these community facilities. The auditorium seats 216. The walls are finished with an oak wainscot and cinder tile walls, with the exception of the stage end of the room. This front wall and the proscenium arch opening are finished in straight-grain oak having interesting carved wood panels on each side of the stage opening. The second-story Observation Room has plate glass windows looking down on the children assembled below in the auditorium.

The Multi-purpose Room is 40 feet by 60 feet. This is an appropriate name for this area as it is used as a gymnasium, play room and lunch room. The Physical Director's office and gymnasium storage rooms open off the east end of this large room. Folding tables and benches are concealed in recessed openings when converting it into a large, efficient lunch room. Adjacent to the west end of the room is a modern well-equipped kitchen with ample cupboards and food-storage rooms. The finish flooring is composed of hard maple strips, laid on wood sleepers, supported by resilient sleeper chairs.

The Kindergarten is one of the fea-

ture rooms of this new project. It is located in the southwest corner of the other L-wing. This location offers the kindergarten pupils the direct use of the south exterior entrance. This makes it possible for the small children to enter and leave their area of the building without coming in contact with the larger and older pupils. The kindergarten pupils have their own private coat room and toilet room. The toilet room has the small-scale toilet fixtures and drinking fountain to accommodate children four and five years old. The Kindergarten room has an unusual treatment of the fenestration in the exterior west wall. This entire facade is composed of three saw-tooth type bay windows. These windows provide the maximum amount of light and sunshine and the effect is to give the room a larger and lighter appearance. One of the saw-tooth bay windows has a wood window seat, the other two bay windows provide open shelving below the window sill. The room is finished with a knotty pine wainscot extending to the top of the glass chalkboards and corkboards with cinder tile walls above.

All rooms in the building have acoustical tile ceilings. The windows are steel sash installed flush with the exterior face of the walls. The entrance and vestibule doors and frames are constructed and finished in aluminum. These doors are glazed with tempered safety plate glass.

Modern and efficient lighting is pro-



Above: Kindergarten.

Saw-tooth Plan affords maximum light, an interesting interior.

vided by the use of hair-line type cold cathode lighting fixtures. The new building has the Reader Method of synchronized vacuum heating. The project also included a separate modern power house designed to accommodate any future building additions. A. F. Caughey, mechanical engineer, designed and supervised all the mechanical trades.

The plans were originally started by the former architectural firm of Malcomson, Calder & Hammond, Inc. The project was completed and supervised by the present firm of Malcomson, Fowler & Hammond, Inc.

Appreciation is hereby expressed for the assistance and cheerful co-operation provided by the general contractor, all sub-contractors and material suppliers who, in spite of the difficulties encountered in obtaining the necessary materials and equipment, united in bringing the building to a satisfactory completion.

BROKAW—From Page 2

numbers in order to arrive at actual current costs. Disappearance of these abnormal premium prices, which should take place as market conditions again become competitive, would tend to bring the costs down to the 70 per cent over prewar level, provided material prices and wages do not go much higher than they are at present.

To bring the cost of construction down to 70 per cent over prewar will take more than mere elimination of current premium prices. Fortunately there are at least eleven other factors likely to operate in that direction. Some of them are to some degree in operation already. Some will take time to become effective in any significant way.

The eleven factors tending toward cost reduction are the following:

1. Elimination of premiums paid in the shortage market.—This is coming about, in part, as a result of increased material production and supply.
2. Competitive pricing of materials.—Even while shortages remain among a few key materials, which may limit total volume of construction, those materials which become plentiful become competitive, subject to the normal forces of demand and supply in the market.
3. Competition between materials.—

Cement block and brick and other clay products compete with lumber, for example: New materials enter the competitive market.

4. Recruitment and training of more building trades workers to overcome shortages and improve productivity.
5. Reduction of federal taxes.—Federal income taxes are deducted from every pay check. Gross income is a production cost; take-home pay after taxes are deducted, represents private purchasing power. The tax item in costs is pyramided many times in final construction costs. While reduced income taxes might not be reflected in lower wage scales, such reduction would tend to offset demands for further wage increases and to improve worker morale.
6. Design changes.—There are many possibilities.
7. Economies in use of materials.—These would include increased standardization of sizes and shapes, modular coordination, elimination of waste in cutting materials.
8. Increased use of power tools and similar improvement in construction methods.
9. Quantity production of practical and appropriate kinds.—Prefabrication of subassemblies is an example.

10. Elimination of restrictive practices wherever they may exist.—These would include feather-bedding rules of labor unions, boycotts, of certain materials and equipment, restrictive bidding arrangements, any monopolistic practices that may exist in distribution of materials.

11. Modernization of building codes.

Some of these cost-reducing factors are already in process; some will make substantial progress only after shortages disappear; some may require legislation or legal action. All are being actively discussed at the present time. The effect of these factors in reducing construction costs is apt to be gradual rather than sudden.

The backlog of demand for residential and non-residential building and for heavy engineering construction continues on a large scale. If this backlog representing immediate need and imminent demand, were the only factor, or merely the dominant factor in the market, an enormous increase in construction volume could confidently be expected. The factors of materials supply, labor production, and the attitude of mortgage creditors, are more dominant than demand in appraising the outlook for the balance of the year.

Much progress was made in 1947 toward balanced production and toward stabilization of the American economy. Progress was due principally to remov-

al of governmental controls, absence of large-scale strikes in key industries, and time. Each day's production of needed goods and services was a measure of progress toward ultimate balancing of supply with demand.

Last year's expectation of early price and construction cost stabilization proved to be over-optimistic. Today's question is whether the progress of the past twelve months has brought the economy to the point where stabilization can be reasonably expected this year.

Inflationary influences dominate the situation at the moment. They include high levels of government spending, potential wage increases in key industries, prospective heavy exports of basic commodities which are in tight supply in the United States. The most important deflationary factor in sight is a tightening of bank credit. Thus far this has been mild, but further tightening is strongly advocated by a number of responsible authorities, and their recommendations have included tightening of home mortgage credit. There seems to be a search for a formula that will produce just enough deflation for a mildly salutary effect without jeopardizing the election prospects of either political party.

There are thus two strong reasons for caution in estimating this year's probable construction volume. The possibility of a temporary setback to check price rises and correct market imbal-

ances, and the possibility that within this calendar year over-all material and manpower supplies cannot be expanded in a large way. These are the considerations that prompted F. W. Dodge Corporation to estimate moderate increases in contract volume over 1947.

The opening of this particular year sees an unusually large carry-over volume of construction work in progress. We expect contract volume to be very heavy during the first quarter and through the second. Should there be a tapering off of contracts around mid-summer, this trend would not affect the activity figures or the actual volume of field activity until several months later.

Based on our overall national estimate, and wrighting out local factors, the State of Michigan should do a non-residential construction volume of \$170,000,000 in 1948. This not withstanding an anticipated drop of 14 per cent in manufacturing building construction, a big contributor to the total building volume in our state. Residential building of all kinds, apartments, hotels, one and two family houses should add another \$250,000,000 to this figure, with public works and utilities contributing the balance to this already impressive total to swell the total to the closest point Michigan has ever come to a half billion dollar construction market.

for redevelopment of blighted areas. Mr. Crow was much impressed with a recent meeting he attended in Chicago, at which about 150 leaders of business, finance, construction and government attended and heard this subject discussed.

Believing that many architects and others will be interested and will benefit by attending, Mr. Crow will be pleased to invite those who indicate their desire to attend.

CHAS. NOBLE'S MODEL DISPLAYED IN FLINT

Architect Charles Nobel's \$8,000 model of Flint's proposed multi-million-dollar Civic Center has been placed on display at the Flint Institute of Arts.

It is a detailed model of the city's group of municipal buildings, including a city hall, art museum, auditorium, historical museum and a library.

Mayor Edward J. Vail is expected to appoint a committee to help city officials plan a long-range public improvement program.

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OWINGS AT ECONOMIC CLUB, WED., MAY 26

Nathaniel A. Owings, A.I.A., will be guest speaker at a luncheon sponsored by The Economic Club of Detroit, in the Grand Ball Room of the Book-Cadillac Hotel, on Wednesday, May 26. His subject will be "How the City of Chicago is Cooperating with Insurance Companies and other Large Financial Institutions in the Redevelopment of its Blighted Areas."

Mr. Owings, a member of the Chicago and New York firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Architects and Engineers, is Chairman of the Chicago Plan Commission; Director and Past President of the Chicago Chapter, A.I.A. The Michigan State Legislature has just passed legislation making this type of investment possible. The bill has gone to Governor Sigler for his signature.

The Bill amends the insurance code to permit insurance companies to invest in housing projects, including commercial service facilities incidental to such projects.

Mr. Allen B. Crow, President of The Economic Club, states that this meeting has been scheduled in order that Detroit may become, if possible, as fully prepared as Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and other metropolitan areas throughout the United States to take advantage of the opportunities which are now available

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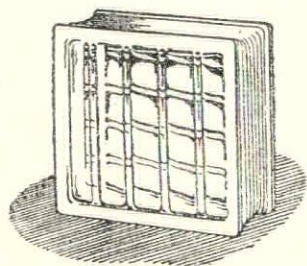
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BUILDERS' & TRADERS' COLUMN

The Michigan Safety Conference will
be held at the Book-Cadillac Hotel,
May 17, 18, 19, and 20th, 1948. As a
part of this conference, there will be
a dinner meeting on Tuesday, May
18th, sponsored by the Steel and Gen-
eral Building Construction Section of
the Industrial Division.

The program will be a most interest-
ing one to everyone engaged in the
construction industry. We are all aware
of the need for accident prevention and
the seriousness of the number of ac-
cidents that have been occurring in our
industry.

The principal speaker will be Mr.
Gerard O. Griffin, Chairman, Accident
Prevention Committee, Associated Gen-
eral Contractors of America, Inc. His
subject will be "The Responsibility of
Management, Supervision, and Labor
for Accident Prevention in the Con-
struction Industry." Following Mr.
Griffin's talk, comments by Mr. J. W.
Armstrong, Vice-president, Darin &
Armstrong, Inc., General Contractors,
on "The Responsibility of the General
Contractor"; Mr. Ralph R. Bozell, Man-
ager, Labor Relations, Whitehead &
Kales Company, on "The Responsibil-
ity of the Sub-contractor"; and Mr.
Finlay C. Allen, Secretary and Busi-
ness Manager, Detroit Building and
Construction Trades Council, A.F.L., on
"The Responsibility for the Coopera-
tion of the Building Trades." It is ex-
pected that there will be available time
for a question and answer period. Mr.
Marvyn G. Gaskin, of the Steel &
Metal Erectors Association of Michi-
gan, will act as chairman.

The Steel & Metal Erectors Division
of the Detroit Industrial Safety Coun-
cil has done remarkable work in the
prevention of accidents through their
supervisory employees, and it is hoped
that through similar efforts a greater
interest and cooperation will be had
with all of the building trades. All
contractors, sub-contractors, and ma-
terial suppliers, with their supervisory
employees, are urged to attend.

Tickets are \$4.50 per person. Tables
for ten persons. Reservations may be
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Volume XXII

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, MAY 18, 1948

No. 20

SOCIETY BOARD MEETS IN GRAND RAPIDS

The Board of Directors of the Michigan Society of Architects met at the Peninsular Club in Grand Rapids on May 5. Present were Messrs. Langius, Zimmermann, Hughes, Allen, Morison, Haughey, Cowin, Brysselbout, Frantz, Cole and Stone.

Mr. Morison reported that Mr. Finlay C. Allan of the Detroit Building Trades Council had invited the architects to take a more active part in the apprenticeship training program sponsored by his organization, and to take part in the building of a demonstration house, which is to be given away, as a feature of the program. Mr. Morison was named as a committee of one to meet with representatives of the Western Michigan Chapter and the Saginaw Valley Chapter to consider the program.

Submitted for consideration was a uniform membership card for the three Michigan chapters, which would also be a membership card for the Society, stating that dues had been paid in both organizations. The form had been approved by the three chapters, but it was referred back for further study as to design.

Roger Allen reported on group insurance as being worked out by The Institute and it was decided to await the announcement of the complete program before taking further action.

Julian Cowin, Chairman of the Committee on New By-Laws, reported with a proposed provision to include non-resident membership. He also reported some changes suggested by the Detroit Chapter, and he was named a Committee of One to meet with Detroit Chapter representatives for further consideration.

The Agreement between the Society and the Weekly Bulletin was considered with the idea of bringing it up to date. Proposed draft will be submitted to the next meeting, which will be held at the Detroit Athletic Club on June 2.

BULLETIN:

In the Weekly Bulletin of April 6, 1948 there appeared a copy of a talk which Mr. Leo P. Richardson delivered before the 34th annual convention of the Michigan Society of Architects at Detroit on March 4, 1948.

Some of Mr. Richardson's statements have created considerable discussion relative to subcontractors. Mr. Richardson indicated that in numerous cases the subcontractor will go to the general contractor after he (the general contractor) has been awarded a job, and ask to be allowed to lower his previous quotation. If this practice prevails, I think it is most unethical and any person who takes part in such procedure should be subjected to censure by the industry.

Perhaps Mr. Richardson could be prevailed upon to furnish whatever facts he may have used to base his statements on, if so, I think it would be enlightening to a great many people. I, for one, would like to know if this practice is prevalent among mechanical contractors.

I feel that one way to correct a situation, such as this, would be to have the general contractor list his subcontracts with his bid, or before the actual award is made, or it might be found expedient to separate the mechanical work from the architectural work as is done in numerous cases, thereby precluding the possibility of the work being let under the auctioneer's hammer. In fact some states have laws which require separate bids and contracts for mechanical work on all state construction. A few such states are

Ohio, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

In my opinion, the architect, or engineer, knows what he wants in regard to the mechanical work on any job, and the best way to get it is by direct dealing with the mechanical contractor, of his own choice. This method, I am sure, has proven to be the most economical and satisfactory from the owner's standpoint.

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PHOTOS AND BIOGS

Don't be annoyed—yet! We have just begun. You old-timers will recall the campaign we put on in 1938 to secure photographs and biographies of all members of the Michigan Society of Architects, for our Silver Anniversary Number, issued in connection with the 25th Annual Convention in 1939.

Now comes (in 1949) the 35th Anniversary, and a feature of that Convention number will be the bringing up to date of the Photos-Biogs edition.

John Coburn, our official photographer will cooperate by taking photographs at a nominal charge. Many can be secured by taking groups of about four at Detroit Chapter dinner meetings. To those who don't attend meetings, John will make a special price and call at your office—or call RA. 3945.

ROGER ALLEN IN THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

APRIL 24, 1948

Standing room only at the Art gallery Monday night—or were you one of those who had to be turned away? And no wonder, with Alden B. Dow speaking and showing films on architecture, plus a display of his models including everything from a modern church to a Texas summer home. (You can still see the models this week-end, so take the family, including the children who'll love the modern look in miniature).

I asked Richard Yonkers, gallery director, if he thought the record crowd came for love of art or for want of a dream house; he thought both incentives were at work, plus a big spread of national publicity Alden Dow has had recently in a national picture magazine.

My own first-hand impression of modern architecture came from a trip 12 years ago through some of the houses Mr. Dow designed in Midland. He wasn't so well known then outside of his home town, but I was delighted by his brilliant use of color and open, airy interiors, as well as by the simple thesis that the architect should concern himself with landscape and interior decoration as well as with structure. Judging by Mr. Dow's growing popularity I think that the drabness and inconvenience of so many of our houses are becoming increasingly unpopular.

Friends of American Art added the lecture as a bonus to its year's schedule of discussions and exhibits. Lorraine Adams, Laura Mae Pibley and all the others who have worked on this program must feel pretty good over the success of their efforts to make our national art better understood. I'm always pleased to see how the gallery is filled with people and activity, especially compared to enormous, grand but deserted galleries I've visited elsewhere.

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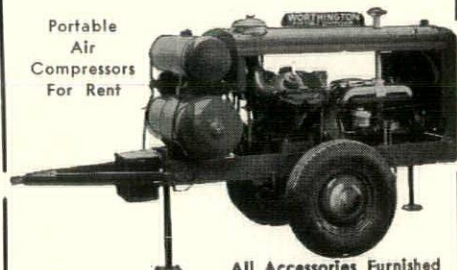
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By THOMAS H. HEWLETT, A.I.A.

Architect

The need for this building arose from the desire of the Corporation's President, Mr. M. J. Zivian, to consolidate the Corporation's executive offices throughout the country into one location. This operation was undertaken in a hurry and it was not possible for him to submit anything but a very sketchy set of requirements. This, and the need for economy and speed in construction necessitated a simple design with the utmost flexibility to absorb future needs with a minimum of cost and inconvenience.

The solution was to provide a three-story steel and masonry shell based on a 4'-3" module with movable steel partitions and wainscots and a maximum of continuous windows. The only permanent partitions being those surrounding the mechanical core which includes the toilets, stair, elevator, duct-space, and vaults.

The first two floors of the building contain office space for the purchasing, accounting and personnel departments, all with vault spaces, while the third floor is devoted entirely to executive offices. A full basement contains the boiler room, telephone equipment room, a large fireproof vault, storage space and two large meeting rooms. An abundance of natural light is provided in the basement by the use of an almost-continuous strip of windows around the building at grade level. An interesting feature of the building is the stair window at the rear. It starts at the head of the rear entrance and runs unbroken vertically through the three floors, providing a brightly-lighted stairwell.

This building, in reality, is an addition to an existing and much smaller office building, which created structural and mechanical design problems because of the Owner's requirement that the floors in both align. The floor construction in the new building was designed to the same overall thickness as that in the existing building, but cover-

ing considerably longer spans and housing a great deal more mechanical equipment. The corridor ceilings are furred down to accommodate the trunk duct lines which in turn connect to a central vertical duct shaft.

In the interest of economy, the sash, door frames and canopy are of steel, painted. The canopy has a porcelain enamel soffit and applied stainless steel letters on the fascia.

Because the building is located in an area of heavy industry, with its consequent fumes and dirt, it was deemed

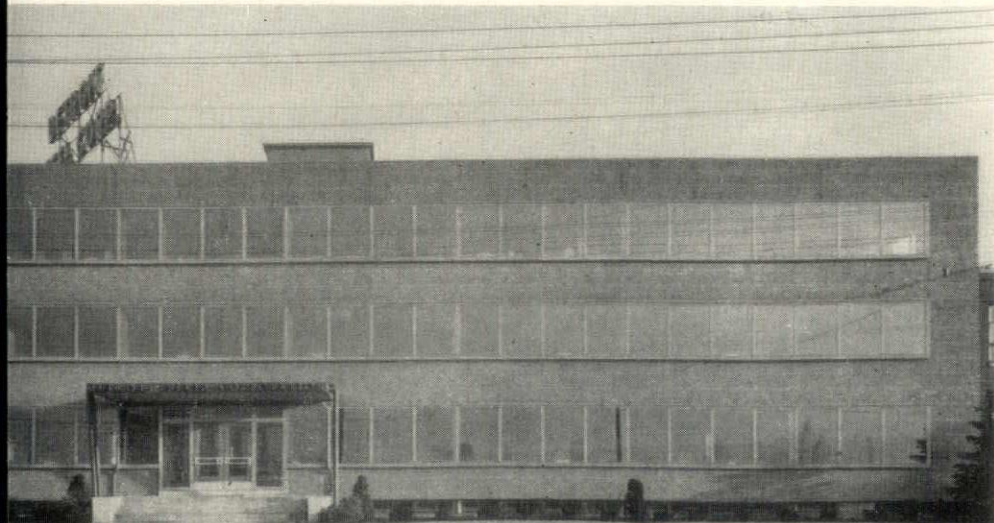
wise to completely filter and condition the atmosphere within the building the year around by mechanical means. Thermopane glass was used almost entirely in order to reduce heating and cooling loads. Fixed stock sash units were not available to accommodate this glass and they were completely designed, by the architect, in steel angle and plate sections. By projecting the windows from the face of the building, the need for a masonry sill was eliminated. This projection prevents rainwater from washing down the sash and staining the brick work as well as adding interest to the exterior of the building and avoiding a "layer cake" appearance. On the interior a wide, useable sill has been created.

Maintenance on the interior has been cut to a minimum by the fact that there are very few surfaces requiring paint, such as exposed plaster, etc. The steel partitions have a factory — applied enamel in a wood-grain finish. The ceilings are of Acoustone and the floors asphalt tile.

We wish to thank the general contractor, Barton-Malow Company, and the sub contractors for their cooperation in bringing this project is a successful completion.



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The architectural mind feeds very selectively. Without golf it is starved for lack of certain important vitamins.

Research has not succeeded in filtering the hormones in golf which hop up architects. It may be that the trajectory of a well-hit drive is the inspirational curve which titillates the nervous mechanism of persons who see visions in geometrical demonstrations, especially curves.

The reasoning in this lies in the well-known fact that a curve properly proportioned and where it belongs interests practically all architects.

Although doing so dilutes the theory, it must be said that scientific observers have noted that contractors too take an interest in curves. A study of this led to an attempted thesis that the contractors reaction was sympathetic.

The reasoning in this attempted thesis was as follows; a contractor generates an undue amount of cortical activity in trying to find in an architect's plans the many things noted in the specifications, and in trying to find references in the specifications to certain things delineated on the plans. This was supposed to lean his mind toward the plane of the architectural mind, and cause the sympathetic reaction to curves. How-

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ever the logic of the attempted thesis was marred by the demonstrated fact that oftentimes contractors after a bout with plans and specifications did not exhibit any other evidence of sympathetic reaction. In fact, there have been cases where the reaction was almost violently unsympathetic. But the thing which exploded the thesis and reduced it to absurdum was the discovery that truck drivers actually can be moved to whistle by a combination of curves.

Examining the subject from the broader viewpoint is necessary, and we must admit that it has been known for a long time that a well-turned curve can be and frequently is noticed outside the realm of golf. While that tends to vitiate to some degree the strict present thesis, still, within reasonable bounds, the postulate can be laid down that golf is a "must" for any architect, and especially for any architect who finds himself blasé about curves.

Some proof of this lies in locker room conversation. Is it not true that a considerable part of such conversation deals with curves? It is true.

So then it follows that architects should engineer or, to be more exact, should architect themselves into the proper avenues to get into locker rooms. Obviously the way for them to do this is to play golf. And the time for them to play golf with the idea of increasing the sympathetic appreciation of contractors and truck drivers is for them to appear at industry outings.

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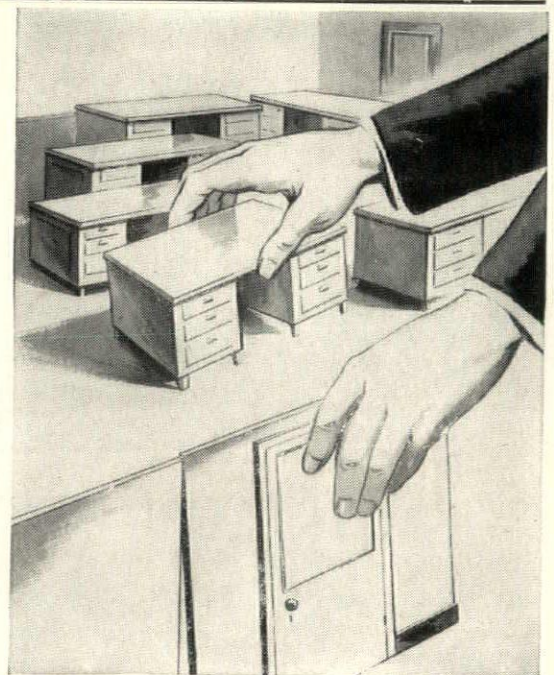
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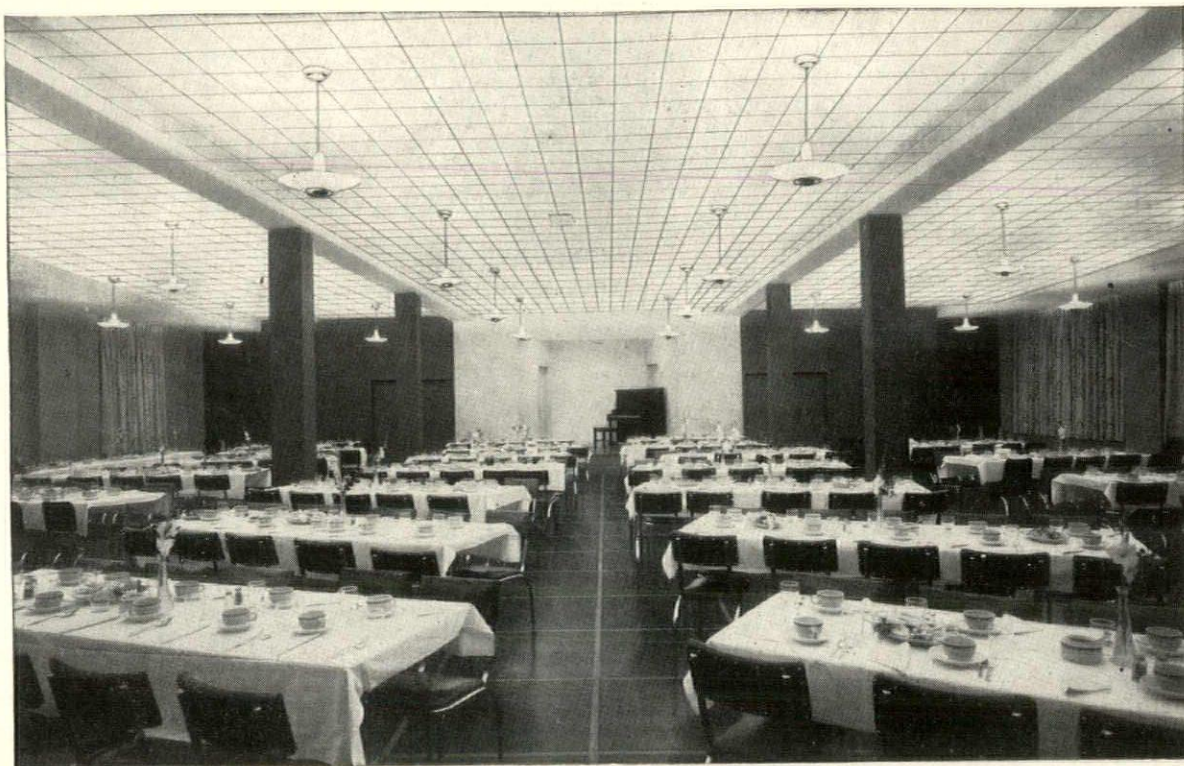
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WEEKLY



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Volume XXII

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, MAY 25, 1948

No. 21

AFFILIATION PROGRAM—WAR DEPARTMENT

A Communication from Edmund R. Purves, Director of Public and Professional Relations, The American Institute of Architects

Representatives of the War Department met with The Executive Committee of The Board of Directors of The A.I.A. at its meeting held in Washington, D.C., March 4—5, 1948, to explain the Army Affiliation Program, and to bespeak the approval of The Executive Committee for the Program.

Action of The Executive Committee was as follows:

"Resolved, That The Executive Committee recommend that the Army Affiliation Program be endorsed by

The Institute and that information concerning the program be conveyed to the membership after it has become fully developed."

The Program has now reached the point of development at which it may be conveyed to the membership.

The Affiliation Programs initiated by the War Department are conceived in the belief that it is advisable for the country to so organize its potential as to insure that in the event of an emergency there will be available a trained reserve.

Active Army Affiliation Programs are already in progress. That sponsored by The Associated General Contractors may be cited as a good example.

It is recognized by the War Department and The Executive Committee that the structure of The American Institute of Architects and the nature of the architectural profession are such as to not lend themselves to setting up a program identical to that of The A.G.C., which latter Program contemplates the sponsorship and organization of entire units by local Chapters of The A.G.C.

In the case of The A.I.A. the endorsement is general, but the implementation will have to be on an individual basis. It is possible that some chapters of The Institute may be in a position to sponsor and organize units, even of company size. However, for the most part, it is anticipated that interested architects who are equipped to do so will make application individually.

Architectural applicants will be considered available for assignment at the

discretion of the Chief of Engineers. Efforts will be made to place the applicant in an organization best suited to his experience and qualifications.

It is also possible that if they desire to do so individual architects may make application through a local unit established under A.G.C. sponsorship.

It is called to your attention that this Affiliation Program concerns only the Corps of Engineers of the U.S. Army. It is hoped that opportunities for architects may be developed in other branches of the Armed Services.

We attach hereto informational material on the Affiliation Program sent to us by the Office of the Chief of Engineers for distribution to our membership.

We request that you call this Program to the attention of your Members, and suggest that if your Chapter, State Association or Organization has a publication, the publication be used for the purpose.

All inquiries should be addressed to this office, in duplicate, for transmittal to the Office of the Chief of Engineers of the War Department.

AFFILIATION PROGRAM

Recent legislation authorizing the Army to reimburse its reservists for their inactive duty training will give added impetus to a vital Army preparedness measure—establishing an Organized Reserve Corps capable of rendering timely, worthwhile support in an emergency requiring rapid mobili-

zation. The Organized Reserves who have heretofore attended the regularly scheduled evening or weekend sessions without compensation, will receive one day's pay for the two-hour armory-type as soon as funds are allocated and enabling regulations by the Department of the Army are published.

The need for strengthening and streamlining our Organized Reserve establishment stems in part from the changed world political alignment and in part from technical developments which have largely eliminated our traditional defensive barrier of distance. In World Wars I and II, heroic allies and geographic isolation provided us a two-year build-up period during which formidable fighting forces were developed from a relatively small Regular Army. Since these favorable conditions no longer exist, we must provide for more rapid mobilization or invite defeat during the vulnerable transition period. The vast difference between our peacetime establishment and full wartime military potential is not likely to be overlooked by any power planning a course of action risking possible involvement of the United States.

Creating a large number of military units within the Organized Reserve Corps, as the Department of the Army is now doing, will materially shorten this critical build-up period. Reservists are being given definite assignments on the organizational tables of

(Continued on Page 6)

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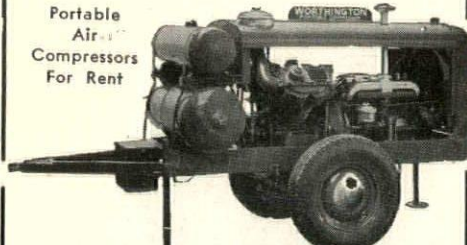


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CHAPTER EDITION MINUTES

The A.I.A. Board of Directors now issues a Chapter Edition of Minutes of its meetings and of the Institute's Executive Committee, for the information of corporate members.

They are most interesting and informative and give a good idea of the tremendous amount of work the Board is faced with. As J. Frazer Smith has said in *The Tennessee Architect*, "In spite of the fact that the Board, looking forward to lightening its load, revamped *The Institute's* structure to include a staff of very able directors, secretaries and committee men, now finds that instead of the former three-day sessions, they cannot complete the business under four days and nights.

From the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of March 4 and 5.

The name of the Grand Rapids Chapter is now Western Michigan.

The 1949 AIA Convention will be held in Houston, Texas, in late April, some of it in Mexico, especially Mexico City, where it is recommended that the Annual Dinner be held.

The 1950 Convention will be held at the Mayflower in Washington, May 3-6.

Evidently, *The Institute* does not propose to be caught short with a convention on its hands and no place to hold it.

A special Committee on Small Public Works has been appointed consisting of Adrian N. Langius, of Lansing, Chairman; Carl Koch, of Boston; Frederick J. Mackie, Jr., of Houston, Texas; Frank R. Slezak, of Kansas City, Mo.; and Albert B. Thomas, of Sacramento.

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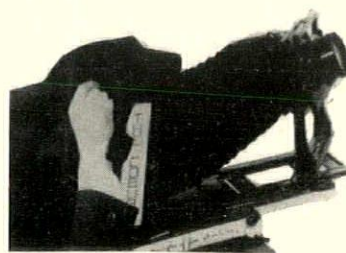
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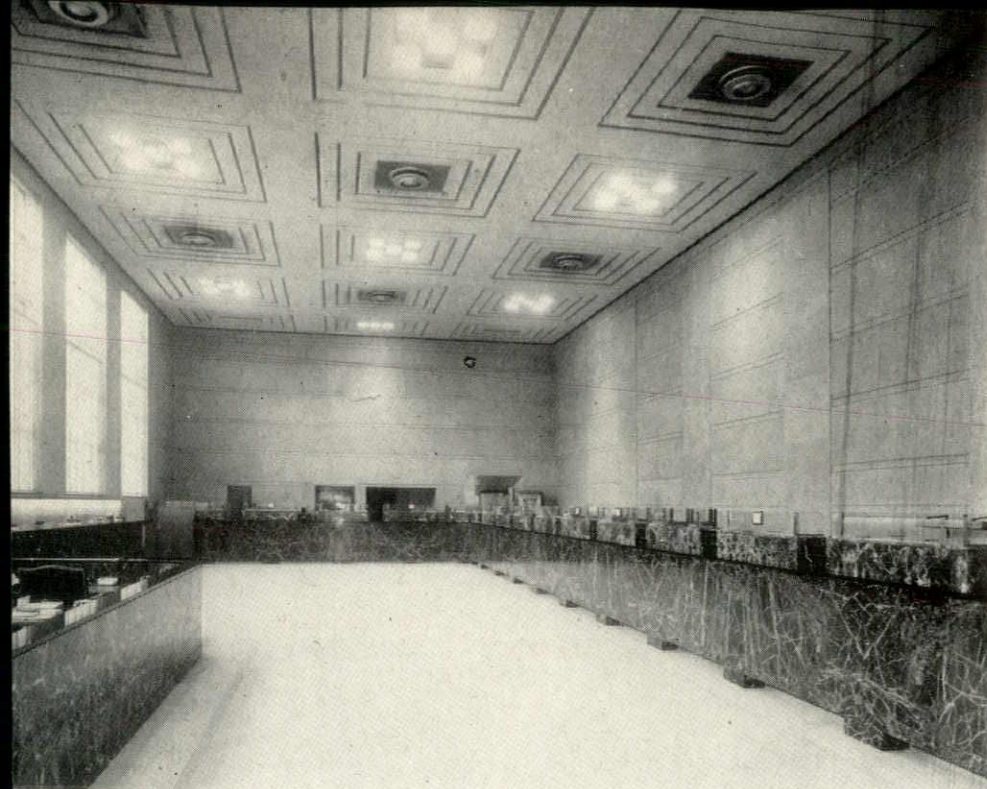
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Manufacturers National Bank, Dearborn, Mich.



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AT LEFT: This view of interior of new banking room affords an idea of spaciousness obtained by modern simplicity.

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Michigan Neckel Branch of the Manufacturers National Bank of Detroit

By ALOYS FRANK HERMAN, A.I.A.
Architect

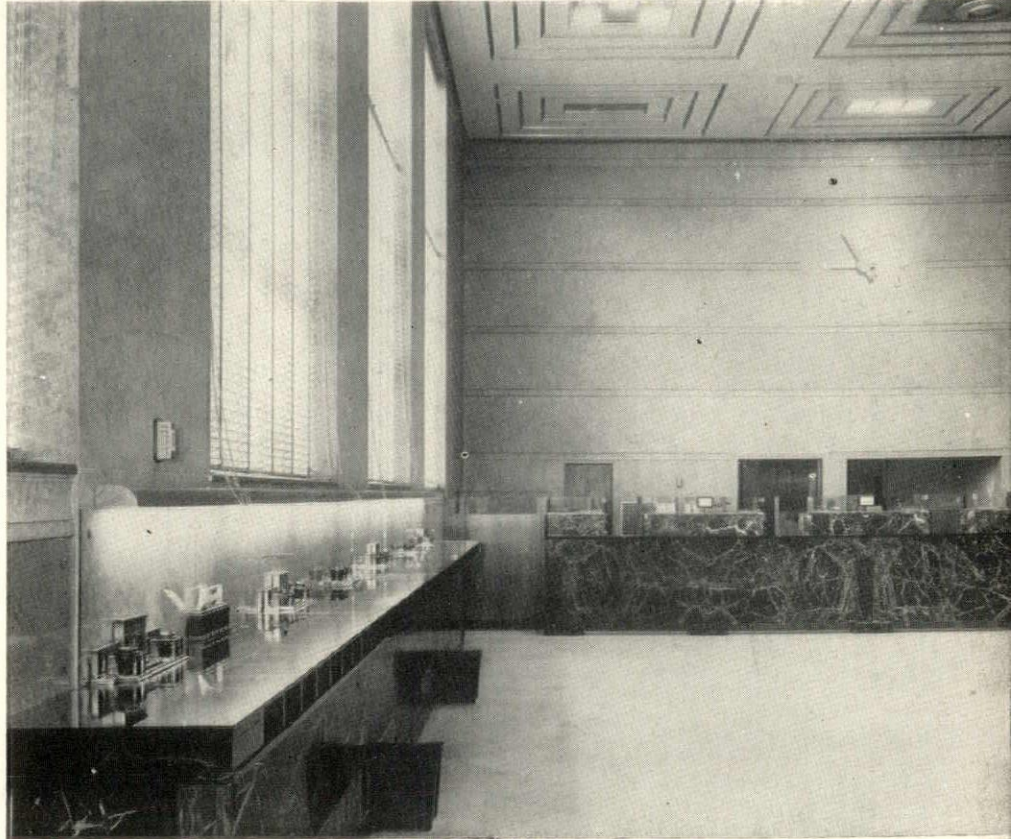
Today, in and about Detroit, everything that serves the public directly, seems to be very much overworked, overcrowded. There never appears to be room enough for the long lines of people whose wants must be taken care of. This applies pretty generally everywhere, and until recently applied with a vengeance at the only branch bank in east Dearborn.

In enlarging the facilities of this banking institution the prime requirement was to provide three times the existing customer's space. The entire change over with its additions and rebuilding to accomplish this aim, had to be constructed without any interruption of business.

Thru much studied planning as well as excellent co-operation on the part of the good natured management and staff, as well as with the assistance of an accommodating contractor and sub contractors, this operation was carried thru to a successful conclusion.

In planning the tellers' cages, much effort had been given to keep them related in design to those at the main banking office downtown. In other words it seemed to be desirable that this branch bank, in so far as was reasonably possible, should have a related look to its large parent institution in the heart of the city.

The exterior of the building is of stone. The northward extension of this building was therefore continued in stone and the original design was carried along as well.



ABOVE—Main Banking Room has Ceiling of Sound-Absorbing Materials.

BELOW—The Conference Room is accessible from both the Officers' Space and Bank Lobby. It is finished in American walnut.

The large window openings which flood the banking room with daylight, have been provided with fixed aluminum frames and have been glazed with double glass. (Thermopane of the Toledo Plate and Window Glass Co.). Thus the building is entirely sealed. Ventilation is mechanical, the air is filtered and during warm weather this is cooled. The air is at all times thoroughly conditioned.

The entrance is thru stainless steel doors and into a marble lined vestibule. From this vestibule we go thru an inner pair of stainless steel vestibule doors and then we reach the banking lobby. To the right is a stairway to the basement safe deposit vaults. At the left is a marble rail surrounding the officers' quarters.

Sixteen tellers' wickets serve the needs of the banking customers. The floor is of pink Tennessee Marble, the walls of Kasota Stone. The wainscots and fronts of the tellers' cages are of Red Levanto (Italian) marble. All deal plates, counters, hand rests etc. are of polished black glass. The check desk is entirely constructed of glass.

The ceiling is built up of sound absorbing materials. The panels into which it has been broken up are only slightly recessed. The receding edges have been bound with aluminum perimeter strips.

Simplicity marks the entire interior.



The textures, colors, and surfaces of the materials that were used have been permitted to play their part to the utmost, in the design of this bank interior.

A conference room accessible from both the officers' space as well as the bank lobby has been provided and finished in American walnut. Here again the treatment has been kept simple, permitting the beautiful color and texture of the walnut to speak for itself.

"50th ANNIVERSARY JOURNAL"

The object of the Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers Union Local No. 5 of Detroit, Michigan, in publishing this booklet is to bring to the attention of the Architects, Engineers, Contractors and the Builders of the vicinity of Detroit an Industry recognized specification, the new amended Detroit Building Code and the Awards and Jurisdictions as awarded by the National Jurisdiction Award Board for the Lathing Trade.

Also included are some charts, schedules, layout methods and detail drawings

as adopted and practiced by the practical Lather when carrying out that portion or part of a building known only by the Building Industry as Light Iron Furring and Lathing.

It is the desire to better acquaint those most interested with some of the more important phases so that a harmonious and full understanding can be attained of what the Lather means to the Building Industry now and in the future.

The Lathers' International Union, Lathers Building, Cleveland (13), Ohio, in their Training Manual for Instruction, a booklet obtainable by anyone, gives practically every instruction required by the trade on related subjects. This completed booklet is recommended to all concerned for further enlightenment on the subject. With all the obscure background, it is essential that every favorable opportunity and all available knowledge regarding the trade be advanced at all times so that the Lathing Industry becomes known as a very important contribution to the essential Building Industry.

WAR DEPARTMENT—

(Continued from Page 1)

various reserve military battalions, companies, detachments, and so on required by the mobilization plan. With these units partially trained and partially equipped, they can be brought to full effectiveness in a fraction of the time that would be required to activate new units and classify personnel for assignment from a huge pool of reservists.

Chief interest of architects and engineers naturally centers around the reserve activities of the Corps of Engineers, whose program comprises over 1000 Engineer units ranging in size from powerful Engineer Construction Groups to highly specialized Engineer Model Making Detachments. Nearly half of the Engineer units required are being established under the Affiliation Program launched in May, 1947 by Secretary of War Patterson.

The Affiliation Program is an integral part of the Organized Reserve Program. Affiliated units are sponsored by civilian organizations performing functions closely allied to the units' projected military assignments; their key personnel are normally drawn from the employees of the sponsoring organization, with civilian occupational skills paralleling needed military specialties. The concept of building Engineer units around nuclei of trained technicians who have worked together as teams in comparable civilian jobs is a sound one. Reserve units so constituted can quickly be brought to full effectiveness because the technical know-how, which requires much longer to instill than military efficiency, is already developed.

In implementing its portion of the program, the Corps of Engineers is signing general contractors to sponsorship agreements for construction, port construction and repair, and airfield construction battalions. Municipal fire departments are sponsoring firefighting platoons; municipalities and labor locals are sponsoring utilities detachments; equipment distributors have engineer depot and maintenance companies and engineer parts supply platoons; and manufacturers have heavy shop companies and foundry detachments. Agreements for more than 300 such Engineer Reserve affiliated units have already been signed by civilian organizations of industry, labor, and Federal, State, and municipal governments. A number of these units have already been activated.

The agreements, signed jointly by representatives of the sponsoring agency and the Department of the Army are "mutual expressions of good faith, active interest, and confidence only." They may be terminated by either party on written notice. The sponsor provides key personnel from his own organization and undertakes to keep his unit at prescribed strength with qualified men. Everyone in the reserve affiliated unit need not necessarily be an employee of the sponsoring agency.

The unit commanding officer selected must be mutually acceptable to the sponsor and the Department of the Army. All unit officers must hold reserve commissions, and all enlisted men must be members of the Organized Reserve Corps. Once the unit is activated, its commanding officer, supervised and assisted by Regular Army reserve instructors, is responsible for administration and training—the sponsor being required to do little more than provide moral support and main-

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The lobby and stairway, paneled in wormy chestnut, features a huge, two-story mural depicting the development of electricity since the days of Franklin, Faraday and Volta. Fluorescent lighting behind western cedar louvers creates a valence around the lobby. Mr. Harlan's office, paneled in walnut, uses continuous rows of double 100 watt fluorescent fixtures mounted behind western cedar louvers one foot square and one foot thick.

Other offices and the drafting room are illuminated by fluorescent lamps recessed into an acoustical ceiling. Curved glass lenses project slightly to provide some illumination on the ceiling.

George J. Bery is the architect.

tain interest in keeping the unit at strength.

The extent of training to be conducted by each unit is incorporated in the original sponsorship agreement; it may vary from weekly armory-type periods, plus 15 days of field training annually, to quarterly training with no summer field training. Monthly or quarterly periods are permitted where the civilian occupations of the personnel involved are so closely allied to the units' military assignment that further training in the primary mission is not essential. These periodic armory-type training sessions are the ones for which one day's pay is authorized by the recent legislation.

The Affiliation Program creates units which can accomplish maximum utilization of our valuable resource of individual technical skills. For the reservist with specialized training, it offers him an opportunity to assure for himself an assignment of his own choosing in event of a war emergency. By joining the proper affiliated organization, anyone with technical know-how vital to the functioning of a specialized unit helps solve in advance the huge classification task confronting a mobilization effort by "pre-classifying" himself, so to speak, to the mutual benefit of both the defense effort and his own morale.

Negotiations with potential sponsors of Engineer Reserve units are being conducted by the various District Engineer Offices, which are the best sources of information regarding the units being formed or to be formed in a particular locality. Senior Instructors of the various Military Districts should be contacted, however, on matters of individual status and assignment in the Organized Reserve Corps.

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At present our percentage of membership in E.S.D. is close to the minimum, hence the Chapter's interest in having more architects join E.S.D.

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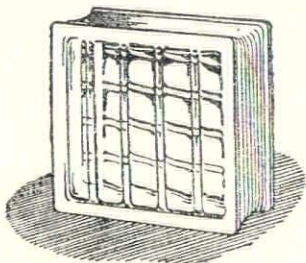
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